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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/884,515	06/19/2001	Hirohisa Yamaguchi	MM4447	2503
1109	7590	07/12/2004	EXAMINER	
ANDERSON, KILL & OLICK, P.C. 1251 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK,, NY 10020-1182			VO, TUNG T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2613	4

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/884,515

Applicant(s)

YAMAGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Tung T. Vo

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06/19/01 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 03/26/03 has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakata (US 5,982,415).

Sakata discloses an image composition component (10 of fig. 1) that combines a plurality of image signals to obtain a single composite image signal;

an image compression coding component (12 of fig. 1) that compresses and encodes the single composite image signal to obtain a compression coded image signal;

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miura et al. (US 6,456,335 B1).

Re claims 1 and 2, Miura discloses an image recording apparatus (figs. 3, 5, and 20) comprising:

an image composition component (213a of fig. 3) that combines a plurality of image signals to obtain a single composite image signal (col. 6, lines 4-13);

an image compression coding component (213 of fig. 3) that compresses and encodes the single composite image signal to obtain a compression coded image signal (col. 6, lines 13-17);

a plurality of cameras (201 of fig. 1) for obtaining the plurality of image signals; and an editing component (col. 1, lines 59-62, see also 9 of fig. 5) that supplies editing control signals to the image composition component in order to edit the plurality of image signals.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 3, 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miura et al. (US 6,456,335 B1) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of the applicant's admitted prior art as shown in figure 1 of the specification.

Re claims 2, 3, 5-7, Miura teaches an image recording apparatus (figs. 3, 5, and 20) comprising: an image composition component (213a of fig. 3) that combines a plurality of image signals to obtain a single composite image signal (col. 6, lines 4-13);

an image compression coding component (213 of fig. 3) that compresses and encodes the single composite image signal to obtain a compression coded image signal (col. 6, lines 13-17);

a plurality of cameras (201 of fig. 1) for obtaining the plurality of image signals;

an editing component (col. 1, lines 59-62, see also 9 of fig. 5) that supplies editing control signals to the image composition component in order to edit the plurality of image signals;

an image signal switching component (2 of fig. 5) for selectively switching the image signals to be input into the plurality of inputs (1-1..1-n of fig. 5);

a read control component (9, 11, 12 of fig. 5) that supplies a read control signal to the plurality of inputs so as to read out image signals inputted therein;

an image processing component (4-6 of fig. 5) for processing the image signals read out from the plurality of inputs using the editing control signal from the editing component (9 of fig. 5);

wherein the image signal switching apparatus changes the image signals input into the input components with each horizontal line of each image signal that forms the single composite image signal using the editing control signal from the editing component (3-6 of fig. 5); wherein the image signal switching component adjusts a size of an image corresponding to the image signal supplied from the image signal switching component using the editing control signal from the editing component (4 of fig. 5, see also fig. 12).

It is noted that Miura does not particularly teach a plurality of memory components for storing each of the plurality of image signals, and an image recording component that records the compression coded image signal onto a recording medium as claimed.

However, the applicant's admitted prior art teaches a plurality of memory components (3a-3d of fig. 1) for storing each of the plurality of image signals and an image recording component (9 of fig. 1) that records the compression coded image signal onto a recording medium. Therefore, taking the combined teachings of Miura and the applicant's admitted prior art as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combined the plurality of memory components (3a-3d of fig. 1) and the image recording component (9 of fig. 1) of the applicant's admitted prior art for the same purpose of composing a selected image from each memory (3a-3d) into a single signal for encoding and then recording the encoded image into the image recording component. Doing so would allow the combined apparatus to efficiently compose multiple images or pictures of video signals.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable the applicant's admitted prior art as shown in figure 1 of the specification and in view of Murayama (US 5,636,314).

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Re claim 8, the applicant's admitted art teaches an image reproduction apparatus for reproducing compression coded image signals recorded on a recording medium by an image recording component using a plurality of cameras for obtaining a plurality of image signals (fig. 1), the image reproduction apparatus comprising: a decoding component (10 of fig. 1) for decoding the composite image signal from the compression coded image signal; an image selection component (6 of fig. 1) that selects the image signal from the composite image signal so as to obtain a selected image signal; a selected image signal storage component (11 of fig. 1) that stores the selected image signal; an output component (12A of fig. 1) that outputs the selected image signal to a display component.

It is noted that the applicant's admitted prior art fails to teach a reproduction component for reading the compression coded image signal from the recording medium. However, Murayama teaches a reproduction component (52 of fig. 1) for reading the compression coded image signal from the recording medium (4 of fig. 1). Therefore, taking the combined teachings of the applicant's prior art and Murayama as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the reproduction component (52 of fig. 1) into the applicant's prior art (fig. 1) for the same purpose of reading out the compression encoded image. Doing so would allow the reproducing system to reproduce a high quality image stored on the recording medium.

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Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure .

Chun (US 5,671,009) discloses a system having improved detection function and detecting method.


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung T. Vo whose telephone number is (703) 308-5874. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris. Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Primary 
TUNG T. VO
PATENT EXAMINER

T.Vo

Tung T. Vo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2613